

## The Montgomery Industrial School, Montgomery, Ala.

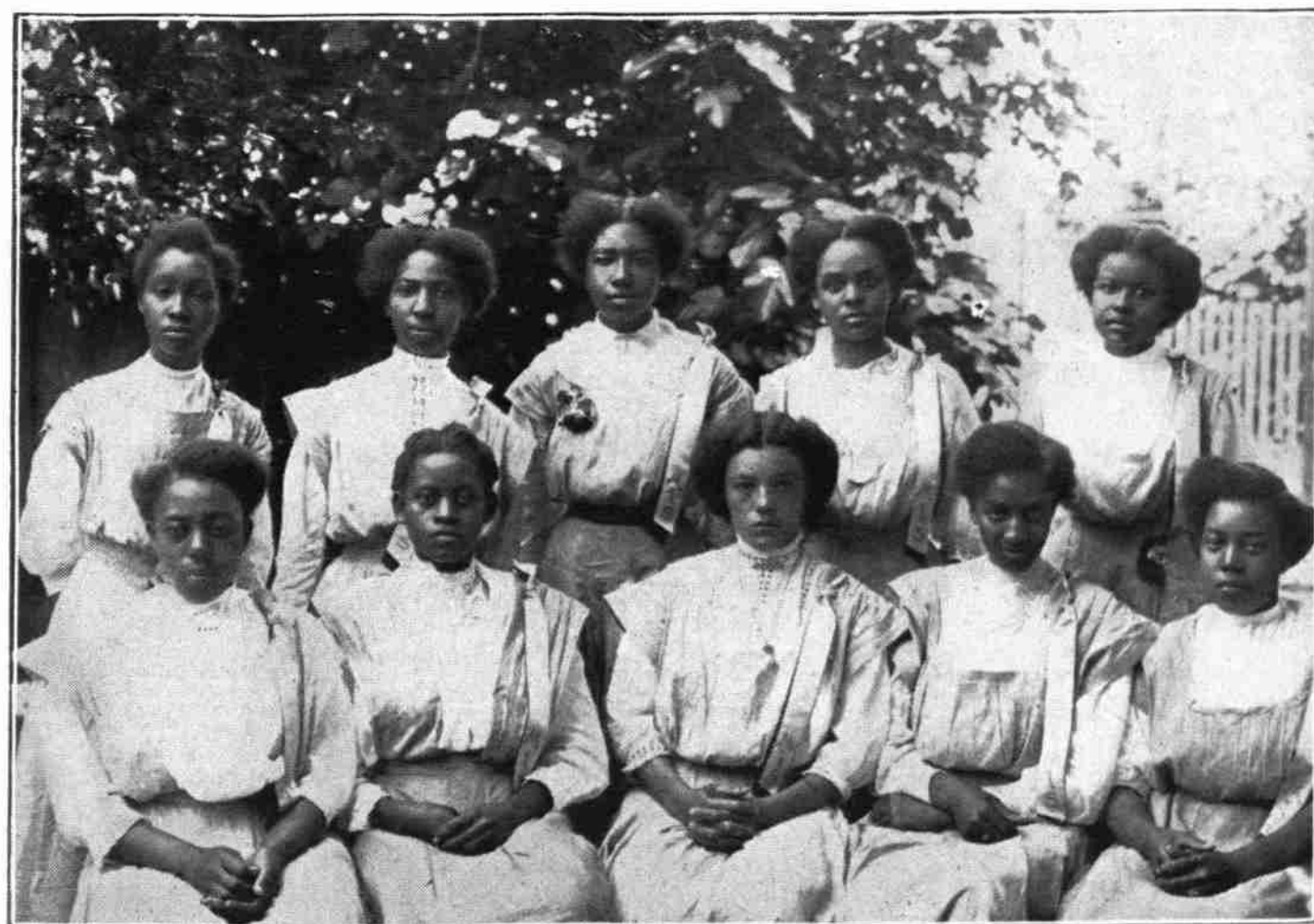
Miss Alice L. White and Miss H. Margaret Beard, Principals

**T**HE Montgomery Industrial School was organized in 1886 by Alice L. White and H. Margaret Beard. The present valuation of the property is \$9,500, the approximate annual expenses between \$5,000 and \$6,000. The money needed is secured through tuition and gifts from Northern friends.

This is a school for girls only. A thorough insight into both the school and the home life of the Negro race led to a fuller realization of the truth of the words, "No race can rise higher than its women and its home life." A great need was seen of training the teachers how to live, how to do woman's work intelligently, practically. This need could be better met in a school where Negroes could be taught by themselves.

The purpose of the school is to train girls to be true gentlewomen in manners and thoughts, to be faithful mothers and homemakers, and, above all, to be earnest Christians. The desire also is to prepare them to earn a livelihood, to make them capable and efficient in some one industry, that will be of service to themselves, their families, and the community in which they live.

Soon after opening, the school was full, and has been crowded



GRADUATING CLASS, 1909, MONTGOMERY INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL



THREE COOKING CLASSES, MONTGOMERY INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL

to its limit ever since, although it has enlarged its quarters three times. The present buildings consist of a main hall, three recitation rooms, a kindergarten, library, sewing room, kitchen. The course of instruction includes the kindergarten, primary, and grammar grades, Bible study, music, and the industrial department, in which is taught cooking, sewing, housework, simple nursing, and raffia work. A true foundation is laid by beginning with the kindergarten, where some of the children are as young as four years, and are being taught practical facts, and the "why" of them.

Most of the pupils come from the city of 40,000 inhabitants and surrounding districts, although a few each year come from the country, and a few from other states. So many young children in the poorer homes have to help with the home work that it is here considered important to give such, as well as older ones, the industrial training. Girls ten to twelve years of age learn how to wash dishes, scrub, clean windows, polish tins and stoves. The younger children are taught to patch, darn, and do all kinds of mending; the older ones, having learned to mend, make garments of all kinds, cutting them out by pattern, and making a dress for themselves when in the graduating class.

Since 1886, many hundreds of pupils have been under the care of the school. Many of the graduates are married, and their homes show a marked improvement over those from which they came. Others have continued study in schools of higher instruction. Still others are supporting themselves as seamstresses and nurses, being employed by the white people. A few have